Seconded by Mr. Sankara Menon.

Carried.

The Council having affirmed the principle of the Bill, Mr. Vieyra proposed that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Messrs Vieyra, Ananda Row and Sankara Pillai to report within two months.

The motion was put and agreed to.

THE ARMS REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Vieyra.—Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Arms Bill. The report has been duly published in the Gazette and circulated among the Members. I beg, therefore, that it be taken up for consideration at once.

Seconded by Mr. Sankara Menon.

Carrried.

Mr. Vieyra.—I beg to propose that in Section 2 of the Bill, the words "the 1st Chingom 1085" be substituted for the words "such day as Our Government, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoints".

Seconded by Mr. Sankara Menon.

Carried.

Section 5.

President.—I think that the words "to any person other than a person entitled to possess the same by reason of an exemption under Section 24 of the Regulation", in para 2 of the Section, may be omitted. Ordinarily, it would be well to insist that in every case of sale of arms and ammunition, information should be given to the authorities. If, however, in particular cases or areas, exemption is found desirable, action may be taken under Section 24.

Mr. Vieyra.—I beg to propose that the words "to any person other than a person entitled to possess the same by reason of an exemption under Section 24 of the Regulation" in Section 5, be omitted.

Seconded by Mr. Kuruvila.

Carried.

Section 6.

Mr. Vieyra.—I beg to propose that the second para of the Section be omitted. I think that the existing rule, requiring licenses for the import and export of arms and ammunition in all cases, is good and needs no change.

Seconded by Mr. Kuruvila.

Carried.

Section 7.

Mr. Ananda Row.—I beg to propose that Section 7 be omitted. The word "warehouse" has not, in the first place, been defined in the Regulation, and it appears to me that there is no necessity for such a provision here.

Seconded by Mr. Sankara Menon.

Carried.

Section 10.

Mr. Ananda Row.—I beg to propose that Section 10 be also omitted. The power to arrest people carrying arms under suspicious circumstances may be abused in many cases. For instance, persons taking arms with them to hilly tracts may be supposed to have an intention of using them against the game laws and may therefore be arrested under the Section. For purposes of public safety, I think the provisions of the ordinary law will suffice.

Seconded by Mr. Kuruvila.

Carried.

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Section 12.

Mr. Vieyra.—I beg to propose that the words "cannon or fire arms" in line 3 of the Section be omitted and the word "arms" be substituted, as the latter includes fire-arms, cannon &c.

Seconded by Mr. Sankara Menon.

Carried.

Section 13.

Mr. Sankara Menon.—I beg to propose that the words "Our Government" be substituted for the words "His Highness the Maha Raja."

Seconded by Mr. Ananda Row.

Carried.

Section 14.

Mr. Vieyra.—I beg to propose that the words "other than a license for possession" in clause (*e*) of the Section, be omitted. I do not think there need be a general exemption from the payment of fee in the case of licenses for possession.

Seconded by Mr. Ananda Row.

Carried.

Mr. Vieyra—I beg to propose that the words "on demand" be inserted between the words "control" and "to" in line 4 of clause (*f*) of the Section. The amendment is to make the meaning clear.

Seconded by Mr. Kuruvila.

Carried.

Section 17.

Mr. Ananda Row.—I beg to propose that the 1st para of Section 17 be omitted. I think that secret breaches of the provisions therein referred to are not of such grave character as to require enhanced punishment. While in real cases of concealment it will be difficult to prove the intention, the provision may be taken undue advantage of by petty subordinates.

Seconded by Mr. Sankara Menon.

Carried.

Section 18.

Mr. Ananda Row.—I beg to propose that the words "imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with", in lines 8 and 9 of the Section, be omitted. In view to the nature of the offence, I think that it will be enough to provide the punishment of fine.

Seconded by Mr. Vieyra.

Carried.

Section 20.

Mr. Anamda Row.—I beg to propose an amendment similar to that in Section 18. I think that for the breach of any rule passed under the Regulation, imprisonment as a substantive punishment is not necessary.

econd e d by Mr. Kuruvila.

Carried.

Section 25.

Mr. Ananda Row.—I beg to propose that the 1st para of Section 25 be omitted. The provision is likely to cause unnecessary hardship.

I beg also to propose that the words "person employed upon any railway or by any," in lines 1 and 2 of the second para, be omitted, for the obvious reason that we have no jurisdiction over railway servants.

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I beg further to propose that the words "arms, ammunition or military stores" be inserted between the words "any" and "box" in line 6 of the second para. Every public carrier should, in my opinion, be required to give information to the Police not only of any box, package or bale containing arms &c. but also the unlawful transport of all arms &c., whether enclosed in boxes or not.

Seconded by Mr. Vieyra.

Carried.

Section 26.

President.—In order that the provisions of the Arms Regulation may not be worked oppressively, I think it would be better to provide, as in the Public Canals and Public Ferries Regulation, that no prosecutions shall be started without the previous sanction of Government or of the District Magistrate.

Mr. Vieyra.—I beg to propose that Section 26 be omitted and the following substituted therefor:—

"No prosecution under this Regulation shall be instituted without the previous sanction of Government or of the Magistrate of the District."

Seconded by Mr. Kuruvila.

Carried.

ion 27.

Mr. Ananda Row.—I beg to propose that Section 27 be omitted. The provision that searches under the Section should be made only in the presence of an officer of Government is, in my opinion, cumbrous and unnecessary.

Seconded by Mr. Sankara Menon.

Carried.

Section 30.

Mr. Vieyra.—I beg to propose that Section 30 be omitted. It will be inexpedient to provide that notice should always be given before proceedings are instituted under the Regulation.

Seconded by Mr. Sankara Menon.

Carried.

Mr. Vieyra.—I beg to propose that the Bill as now amended be published in the Gazette and read again on a future day of which notice shall be given.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Council dispersed at 2-30 P. M. and met again at 3 P. M.

THE POLICE REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Sankara Menon.—I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to amend the Police Regulation, IV of 1056. The Report has been duly published in the Gazette and circulated among the members. I beg, therefore, that it be taken up for consideration at once.

Seconded by Mr. Vieyra.

Carried.

Mr. Kuruvila.—My views on the important question before us have been already submitted for your sympathetic consideration at the introduction of the Bill. My official colleagues in the Select Committee have been apparently so overpowered by the virtue of firmness that they could not be impressed by my humble advocacy for certain modifications in the mere fringes of the Bill without affecting the soundness of its heart and body. My pleadings before them are embodied in my Memo attached to the Select Committee's Report. The Memo may be taken as read and I need not, I hope, occupy the Council's time by its repetition.

I cordially support the policy of equipping the Central Government with ample punitive powers as desired in the Bill, and I have no objection to the word 'Government' being substituted for the words 'District Magistrate' in any or all

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